

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

AWH-Summary Report for Trial Trenching at Welsh Road Boddington Cutting, Northamptonshire AC320/21 Site Code: 1C20WRBTT

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Code 1 - Accepted

Summary

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken between January and February 2021 on a land parcel designated C32051, which lies at Boddington Cutting, Northamptonshire (NGR centre 446439 253258).
- 1.1.2 The Site (1C20WRBTT) covered a total area of 20.09ha and was on a gentle slope down to the south-west where several feeder streams drain into the Oxford Canal located 1.5km south-west of the Site.
- 1.1.3 The depth at which natural geology or archaeology was encountered varied across the site between 0.26 and 0.41 below ground Level (BGL). The natural geology generally comprised mixed mid-brown or yellowish-brown compacted silty clay with manganese staining and natural bands of ironstone; Field 50 additionally had natural pea gravels. Topsoil and subsoil depths varied erratically across the site. Topsoil measured 0.2m to 0.5m deep and generally comprise dark brown silty-clay loam. Subsoil measured 0.08m to 0.14m in depth and was a yellowish-brown silty-clay more compacted than the topsoil.
- 1.1.4 In total, 125 trenches were excavated, of which 60 contained archaeological features, predominantly furrows. Finds included Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery, clay building material, fired clay, glass, clay tobacco pipes and animal bone.
- 1.1.5 Iron Age/ Roman settlement comprising possible roundhouses and linear features were identified to the east of Field 43. A rectilinear multi-ditched enclosure towards the centre of the same field confirmed the continuation of the farmstead/settlement in the area. These features were identified in the geophysical survey and confirmed in the archaeological evaluation, although the retrieved dating evidence was scarce.
- 1.1.6 Clear indication of Medieval to modern agricultural practices throughout site. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system and one single datable ditch were recorded. This activity extended into the Post-Medieval period, probably associated with the nearby village of Boddington.
- 1.1.7 Different alignments of the furrows yielded to the establishment of boundary ditches between fields in the post-medieval period. Also ponds to stock water were constructed. The land appears to have continued to be used for agricultural activities to the present day, with a shift from arable to pastoral farming.
- 1.1.8 The archaeology was predominantly limited to Field 43, with only a small boundary in Field 44 and a few pits in Field 46.
- 1.1.9 Medieval and post-medieval pottery was also recovered from across the site within the topsoil and subsoil, along with post-medieval ceramic building material and iron objects.